

Application No. 10/086,940
Discussion Amendment

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-65. (Canceled)

66. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

removably securing a proximal end of an intubation-tube placement device to a proximal end of an intubation tube such that the placement device extends through the intubation tube and a tactile accentuator at a distal end of the placement device extends out of a distal end of the intubation tube;

inserting the distal end of the an-intubation-tube placement device, secured to an intubation tube, into a patient's oral cavity;

detecting the cartilaginous rings of the a trachea via at least one the tactile-accentuator device coupled to the intubation-tube placement device;

forcing the distal end of the intubation-tube placement device through the patient's vocal cords; and

axially sliding the intubation tube along the intubation-tube placement device such that the intubation tube follows the distal end of the intubation-tube placement device through the patient's vocal cords.

67. (Original) The method of Claim 66, wherein said intubation-tube placement device comprises a light source.

68. (Original) The method of Claim 66, wherein said forcing the intubation-tube placement device through the patient's vocal cords comprises:
suctioning materials from a vicinity of the patient's vocal cords via a suction tube formed by the intubation-tube placement device.

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69. (Original) The method of Claim 68, wherein the suction tube formed by the intubation-tube placement device comprises:

the intubation-tube placement device forming a hollow tube.

70. (Original) The method of Claim 68, wherein the suction tube formed by the intubation tube placement device comprises:

the intubation-tube placement device forming a hollow tube;

an anti-perforation device having a trailing portion and an exploratory portion;

a channel between the trailing portion and the exploratory portion of said anti-perforation device; and

the trailing portion coupled to said intubation-tube placement device such that the channel substantially aligns with the hollow tube.

71. (Original) The method of Claim 66, wherein said forcing the intubation-tube placement device through the patient's vocal cords comprises:

applying axial pressure along the intubation-tube placement device such that the intubation-tube placement device moves into the patient's trachea.

72.-79. (Cancelled)

80. (Currently Amended) An intubation device, comprising:

an intubation placement device having a bendable first distal end configured to be introduced through a set of vocal cords;

an intubation tube having a distal and a proximal end; and

a retention device coupled configured to removably secure a proximal end of to the placement device to and configured to removably secure an a proximal end of the intubation tube in position on the placement device with the first end of the placement device extending inside the intubation tube and the distal end of the placement device extending out of the distal end of the intubation tube.

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81. (Currently Amended) The intubation device of claim 80 wherein the retention device comprises a rubber stopper having a center hole configured to frictionally receive the intubation placement device.

82. (Currently Amended) The intubation device of claim 81 wherein the rubber stopper is configured to be partially received into the intubation tube.

83. (Previously Presented) The intubation device of claim 80 wherein the intubation placement device comprises a hollow tube.

84. (Previously Presented) The intubation device of claim 83, further comprising:

a fiber optic cable configured to extend into the intubation placement device.

85. (Previously Presented) The intubation device of claim 80 wherein the intubation placement device comprises a semi-rigid material.

86. (Previously Presented) The intubation device of claim 85 wherein the intubation placement device comprises a bendable rod.

87. (Previously Presented) The intubation device of claim 80 wherein the intubation placement device comprises a medical-grade polymeric material.

88. (Currently Amended) The intubation device of claim 80 wherein the first distal end of the intubation placement device comprises an anti-perforation device.

89. (Currently Amended) The intubation device of claim 80 wherein the first distal end of the intubation placement device comprises a tactile-accentuator configured to detect cartilaginous rings of a trachea.

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90. (Currently Amended) A method of intubating a patient, comprising:
removably securing an intubation tube on a proximal portion of a first portion of a
endotracheal placement device to a proximal end of an intubation tube such that the endotracheal
placement device extends through the intubation tube and a bendable second distal portion of the
endotracheal placement device extends out through a distal end of the intubation tube;
subsequently guiding the second distal portion of the endotracheal placement
device through the patient's vocal cords; and
guiding the intubation tube through the patient's vocal cords such that a portion
the distal end of the intubation tube follows the distal second portion of the endotracheal
placement device through the patient's vocal cords; and
subsequently pulling the endotracheal placement device out of the intubation tube,
leaving the intubation tube in position in the patient.

91. (Canceled)

92. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 91-90 wherein the proximal
portion of the placement device is removably secured to the proximal end of the intubation tube
using a retention device and subsequently removing-pulling the endotracheal placement device
from-out of the intubation tube comprises twisting the endotracheal placement device and the
endotracheal tube in opposite directions to sever a-the retention device.

93. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 90 wherein the
endotracheal placement device comprises a hollow tube and guiding the endotracheal placement
device through the patient's vocal cords comprises:
suctioning materials from a vicinity of the patient's vocal cords.

94. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 90 wherein guiding the second
distal portion of the endotracheal placement device through the patient's vocal cords comprises:
detecting cartilaginous rings with a tactile-accentuator device coupled to the
endotracheal placement device.

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95. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 90 wherein the intubation tube comprises a wall, further comprising:

providing a plurality of ventilation holes along the wall in the portion of endotracheal tube that follows the endotracheal placement device.

96. (Currently Amended) An intubation device, comprising:
an intubation tube having a first distal end and a proximal end;
a endotracheal placement device having a semi-rigid first distal end configured to pass through vocal cords and into a trachea; and

a retention device configured to removably secure the-a proximal end of the endotracheal placement device to the proximal end of the intubation tube on the endotracheal placement device with the placement device extending through the intubation tube and the first distal end of the endotracheal placement device extending out of the first distal end of the intubation tube.

97. (Currently Amended) The intubation device of claim 96 wherein:
the retention device comprises a rubber stopper having a hole;
the retention device is configured to frictionally receive the endotracheal placement device in the hole; and
a second-the proximal end of the intubation tube is configured to partially receive the retention device.

98. (Currently Amended) The intubation device of claim 96 wherein the retention device comprises a detachable portion of a second-the proximal end of the intubation tube.

99. (Currently Amended) The intubation device of claim 96 wherein a second the proximal end of the endotracheal placement device extends out of a second-the proximal end of the intubation tube.

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100. (Previously Presented) The intubation device of claim 96 wherein the endotracheal placement device comprises a semi-rigid rod.

101. (Currently Amended) The intubation device of claim 96 wherein a tip of the first-distal end of the intubation tube has a rounded shape.

102. (Currently Amended) The intubation device of claim 101 wherein the tip of the first-distal end of the intubation tube has an opening having a diameter approximately equal to a diameter of the endotracheal placement device.

103. (Currently Amended) The intubation device of claim 102 wherein a portion of a wall of the intubation tube adjacent to the first-distal end of the intubation tube has a plurality of ventilation openings.

104. (Currently Amended) The intubation device of claim 96 wherein a tip of the first-distal end of the intubation tube is tapered.

105. (Currently Amended) The intubation device of claim 104 wherein the tip of the first-distal end of the intubation tube is configured to taper to approximately a diameter of the distal end of the endotracheal placement device.

106. (Currently Amended) The intubation device of claim 105 wherein a portion of a wall of the intubation tube adjacent to the first-distal end of the intubation tube has a plurality of ventilation openings.

107. (Currently Amended) The intubation tube of claim 96 wherein a portion of a wall of the intubation tube adjacent to the first-distal end of the intubation tube has a plurality of ventilation openings.

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108. (Currently Amended) The intubation tube of claim 107 wherein the intubation tube comprises an inflatable cuff and the plurality of ventilation openings are located on the wall between the first distal end of the intubation tube and the inflatable cuff.

109. (Currently Amended) An intubation device, comprising:
means for introducing the intubation device through vocal cords; and
means for removably securing an a proximal end of an intubation tube to a proximal end of the means for introducing with the means for introducing extending through the intubation tube and a distal end of the means for introducing extending out of a distal end of the intubation tube. a bendable portion of the means for introducing extending out of the intubation tube.

110. (Previously Presented) The intubation device of claim 109 wherein the means for introducing comprises an intubation placement device.

111. (Currently Amended) The intubation device of claim 109 wherein the means for removably securing comprises a rubber stopper. stopper configured to frictionally secure the means for introducing.

112.-120. (Canceled)

121. (Currently Amended) The intubation device of claim 98 wherein the intubation tube comprises a perforated border configured to facilitate detaching the detachable portion from the seeond proximal end of the intubation tube.

122. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 90, further comprising: 90
wherein pulling the endotracheal placement device out of the intubation tube comprises:
breaking a perforated border along a adjacent to the proximal portion of the
intubation tube, coupled to the endotracheal placement device.

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123. (Currently Amended) The intubation device of claim 80 wherein the retention device comprises a detachable portion of the proximal end of the intubation tube.

124. (Previously Presented) The intubation device of claim 123 wherein a border of the detachable portion is perforated.

125. (Canceled)

126. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 66, further comprising: breaking a perforated border along a portion of the intubation tube.

127. (New) The intubation device of claim 80 wherein the retention device is configured to facilitate positioning of the distal end of the placement device as it is introduced through the set of vocal cords.

128. (New) The method of claim 66 wherein, securing the intubation-tube placement device to the intubation tube comprises inserting the placement device into a hole in a stopper and inserting the stopper into the intubation tube; and
inserting the distal end of the intubation-tube placement device into the patient's oral cavity comprises manipulating the intubation-tube placement device by manipulating the stopper.

129. (New) The method of claim 66 wherein, securing the intubation-tube placement device to the intubation tube comprises using mechanical friction to hold the placement device in position in the intubation tube.